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CC:
Subject: E & E News - Public pressure, not regs, will force cleaner fracking (LPJ quoted) - Jan. 22

News Headline: OIL AND GAS: Public pressure, not regs, will force cleaner fracking[http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2012/01/20/1mailto:?subject=News Forwarded: OIL AND GAS%3A Public pressure, not regs, will force cleaner fracking -- Jackson...&body=OIL AND GAS%3A Public pressure, not regs, will force cleaner fracking -- Jackson%0A01/22/2012%0AE%26E News PM%0A%0APublic pressure like that from residents of a small town in Pennsylvania who claim their water has been fouled by hydraulic fracturing will force the industry to make its practices greener, U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said today."Fracking fluid...%0A%0ALink: http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2012/01/20/1](http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2012/01/20/1mailto:?subject=News%20Forwarded%3A%20Public%20pressure%2C%20not%20regs%2C%20will%20force%20cleaner%20fracking%20--%20Jackson...&body=OIL%20AND%20GAS%3A%20Public%20pressure%2C%20not%20regs%2C%20will%20force%20cleaner%20fracking%20--%20Jackson%0A01/22/2012%0AE%26E%20News%20PM%0A%0APublic%20pressure%20like%20that%20from%20residents%20of%20a%20small%20town%20in%20Pennsylvania%20who%20claim%20their%20water%20has%20been%20fouled%20by%20hydraulic%20fracturing%20will%20force%20the%20industry%20to%20make%20its%20practices%20greener%2C%20U.S.%20EPA%20Administrator%20Lisa%20Jackson%20said%20today.%22Fracking%20fluid...%0A%0ALink%3A%20http%3A%2F%2Fwww.eenews.net/eenewspm/2012/01/20/1)

News Text: Public pressure like that from residents of a small town in Pennsylvania who claim their water has been fouled by hydraulic fracturing will force the industry to make its practices greener, U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said today.

"Fracking fluids will get greener, water use will get down, all because the industry, quite frankly, will do it, must do it, and will feel the public pressure -- not the EPA pressure -- to do this in a responsible way," Jackson said, speaking at a conference in Washington, D.C., this afternoon hosted by the National Council for Science and the Environment.

Yesterday, the agency announced it will truck potable water to the residents of Dimock, Pa., while it samples water for hazardous substances (Greenwire, Jan. 20). The town's residents say drilling activity by Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. has polluted their water wells, which data from state regulators and the company have shown to be tainted with methane and other toxic chemicals. The company trucked potable water into the town for three years until state regulators told Cabot that it had met its obligations under a 2010 settlement. The water deliveries ended Dec. 1.

Jackson has criticized Pennsylvania officials for their handling of the issue, but her agency has flip-flopped on its role multiple times in the past two months. Before yesterday's announcement, EPA had told residents first that the water posed no health risk, then that it needed further study, then, in a span of 24 hours earlier this month, the agency promised to truck in water and then reneged.

Jackson indicated today that the back-and-forth was related in part to questions about EPA's authority over the matter. The responsibility for enforcing and implementing the Safe Drinking Water Act rests with the states. Jackson said her agency ultimately decided to intervene under its Superfund authority.

<http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2012/01/20/1>

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